

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated June 29, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on September 29, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1-23 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 5 and 16 have been amended. Applicants submit that the amendments do not introduce new matter.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 13-15, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Carr* (US 5,428,733) and *Grillo et al.* (US 6,717,589). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner correctly observes that "*Carr* ...fails to explicitly teach positioning of a non-modal dialog box (or balloon) to afford obscuring hyperlinks." (Page 3, paper 3.) The Examiner then states that *Grillo* "teaches a method for displaying modal and non-modal help balloons in a networked environment, such as a Web browser." (*Id.*) The Examiner does not argue that *Grillo* teaches (and, in fact, *Grillo* does not teach) positioning of a non-modal dialog box to avoid obscuring hyperlinks. Accordingly, neither cited reference teaches positioning a non-modal dialog box to avoid obscuring hyperlinks. However, the Examiner states that it is "well-known in the art that hyperlinks may be represented on a browser". (*Id.*) Respectfully, Applicants submit that while it is indeed well-known that hyperlinks are represented in a browser, absent a teaching of positioning a dialog box/balloon (whether modal or non-modal) to avoid obscuring hyperlinks, the rejection is improper for lack of teaching each of the claimed elements. (See, MPEP § 2143.) Therefore, the claims are believed to be allowable and allowance of the same is respectfully requested.

Further, to the extent the Examiner broadly characterizes the "sensitive area" of *Carr* to include an area containing hyperlinks, Applicants respectfully submit that such a characterization is improper since *Carr* specifically defines the "sensitive area" to be that area "associated with the help information" for which the help balloon is being displayed. (See, e.g., column 3, lines 2-4.) Accordingly, whether a display area absent of any hyperlinks exists is entirely irrelevant to *Carr*. As such, the balloon of *Carr* may

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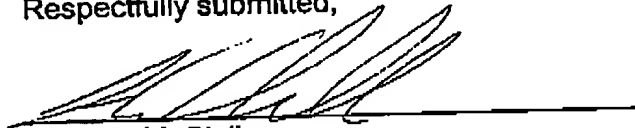
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be purposefully positioned over one or more hyperlinks, even if a display area absent of any hyperlinks exists, so long as the help information (the sensitive area) remains unobscured. Therefore, the claims are believed to be allowable and allowance of the same is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-8 and 16-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants acknowledge the allowable subject matter. However, because the respective base claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons given above, Applicants have not rewritten the objected to claims that this time.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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